

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 01863 130654Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /073 W
----- 117150

R 130515Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: ROBERT HAWKE COMMENTS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE

1. HAWKE, FEDERAL PRESIDENT BOTH OF TRADE UNION COUNCIL
AND LABOR PARTY, TOLD LABATT NOVEMBER 13 THAT HE HAD
REVERSED PREDICTION OF LABOR PARTY DEFEAT MADE SOME TIME
BACK, AND NOW THOUGHT "BIG WIN" FOR LABOR WAS GOOD
PROBABILITY.

2. HAWKE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CANBERRA WHERE HE HAD
HURRIEDLY GONE WHEN GOVERNOR GENERAL SACKED LABOR GOVERNMENT
ON NOVEMBER 11. HAWKE PRESIDED IN CANBERRA AT SERIES OF
PARTY LEADERSHIP MEETINGS CALLED TO PLAN CAMPAIGN INTO WHICH
IT HAS BEEN SUDDENLY PLUNGED.

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PAGE 02 MELBOU 01863 130654Z

3. HAWKE ADMITTED PARTY HARD PRESSED TO EXPAND RELATIVELY MODEST PLANS FOR HALF-SENATE ELECTION INTO FULL SCALE FIGHT FOR WHOLE PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATE PLEDGES OF SUPPORT "FROM SURPRISING QUARTERS" ENCOURAGED HIS BELIEF THAT LABOR COULD ORGANIZE IN TIME FOR WELL FINANCED CAMPAIGN.

4. LABOR LEADERS HAVE AGREED TO BUILD WHOLE PUBLIC EFFORT AROUND SERIES OF RALLIES AND MEETINGS FEATURING GOUGH WHITLAM AND HAWKE; SOMETIMES TOGETHER, MORE OFTEN IN WIDELY SEPARATED PLACES. HAWKE STARTS NOVEMBER 14 WITH THREE RALLIES IN BRISBANE; WHITLAM AT SYDNEY MEETING SAME NIGHT.

5. ALTHOUGH LEADER CONSENSUS, INCLUDING WHITLAM, FAVORED SINGLE ISSUE CAMPAIGN BASED ON CLAIMED CONSTITUTIONAL IRREGULARITIES, HAWKE FEELS PARTY RECORD IN EDUCATION, WELFARE, PLUS IMPROVING ECONOMY PROVIDES OTHER THEMES.

6. HAWKE NOTED FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT YET ISSUE AND PARTY WILL NOT RAISE IT. THEY WILL RESPOND, HOWEVER, IF FRASER FORCES "SAY SOMETHING STUPID." IN THIS CONNECTION, HAWKE MENTIONED DR. JIM CAIRNS ATTEMPT TO REVIVE "SPIRIT OF VIETNAM MORATORIUM," COMMENTING WRYLY THAT FORMER LEADER WAS "FIDDLER WITH ONE STRING."

7. LABATT RAISED QUESTION OF INCITEMENT OF WORKERS DURING LAST FEW DAYS BY COMMUNIST LEADERS IN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HAWKE SAID HE EXPECTED THEM TO TRY TO EXPLOIT SITUATION, BUT FELT HE HAD SUPPORT FROM OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WHO WOULD HEED HIS CALL TO STAY AT WORK, EARNING MONEY TO SUPPORT PARTY. HE WAS BOYCOTTING ANY MEETING IDENTIFIED AS COMMUNIST DOMINATED, INCLUDING MASS RALLY IN MELBOURNE CALLED FOR NOVEMBER 14 BY ULTRA LEFT UNIONISTS.

8. LABATT RECALLED HAWKE GLOOM OVER LABOR ELECTORAL PROSPECTS AS RECENTLY AS SIX WEEKS AGO WHEN HE PREDICTED LABOR LOSS OF THIRTY SEATS IF ELECTION HELD THEN. HAWKE REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS "REPUTED AGNOSTIC, SOMEBODY UP THERE" IS LOOKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MELBOU 01863 130654Z

OUT FOR PARTY. FRASER AND GOVERNOR GENERAL HE CONTENTS, HAVE SUCCESSFULLY UNIFIED LABOR PARTY BY PROVIDING ISSUE WHICH OVERRIDES PARTY DIFFERENCES AND INTERNECINE STRIFE. "EVEN CONNOR, CAMERON, CAIRNS AND OTHERS HIT BY GOUGH" WERE SAFELY ON PARTY TEAM AND "WORKING HARD."

9. HAWKE TOLD LABATT WHITLAM HURT BY GOVERNOR GENERAL DISMISSAL, BUT DEPOSED LEADER VERY DETERMINED, AND GENUINELY

CONVINCED THAT INSTITUTION OF PARLIAMENT IN DANGER FROM
"FASCIST FRASER." HAWKE SAYS GOVERNOR GENERAL NOW BEING
CHARACTERIZED AS "VON HINDENBURG" OF AUSTRALIA.

10. COMMENT: LABATT FOUND HAWKE VERY QUIET AND WELL
ORGANIZED AND PLANNING CAREFUL CAMPAIGN, SURROUNDING HIMSELF
WITH STAFF INSTEAD OF ADOPTING LONE ROLE OF PAST FIGHTS.
STILL SURE OF HIMSELF, THIS TIME HAWKE IS NOT COCKY EXUBERANT
OF 1972. HE FEELS RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS UNIQUE LEADERSHIP.
LABATT OBSERVES THAT WHITLAM NO LONGER HAS GOVERNMENT
MACHINERY AVAILABLE, AS PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM NOW
PLACES THIS CONSIDERABLE FORCE AT DISPOSAL OF CARETAKER
PRIME MINISTER FRASER. AS HEAD OF TRADE UNIONS AND
OF PARTY, HAWKE IS AGAIN MOST POWERFUL LEADER IN
WORKER AND IN POLITICAL LABOR MOVEMENTS. LABATT NOTES
LABOR PARTY STARTING OUT WITH ABOUT BEST OPINION POLL
POSITION IT HAS ENJOYED IN RECENT PAST.
BRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, PARTY STRENGTH, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PARTY LEADERS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MELBOU01863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750395-0023
From: MELBOURNE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751146/aaaabpge.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROBERT HAWKE COMMENTS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE
TAGS: PINT, AS, (HAWKE, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006